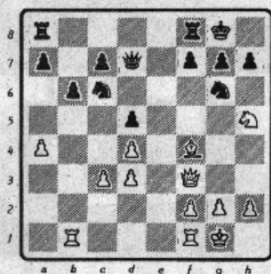


Time pressure affects games

PROBLEM



Black, Tony Dowden, has just moved his knight to g6 to attack a bishop. But White, Mark van der Hoorn, found an unexpectedly powerful reply. What was it?

(Solution at end of column)

By ANTHONY KER
Chess writer

The Debo rapidplay tournament was yet another success for the Kapiti Chess Club.

Russell Dive won the event with five wins and a draw from his six games. Mark Sinclair and Mark van der Hoorn both won key last-round games to finish equal second with 5 points each.

The B grade section was a tie between Prince Vetharanian and Terry Powell, while six players shared the spoils in the C grade - Alistair Compton, Srdja Stepanovic, Jonathan Nicolls, Jordan Wilson, Leigh McGregor and chief tournament organiser Guy Burns.

The standard of play was erratic, with many good opportunities being squandered under time pressure. The following game was a pleasant exception to this trend.

Patrick Savage - Aaron Barlow

Debo rapidplay
Ruy Lopez

- | | |
|-------|-----|
| 1 e4 | e5 |
| 2 Nf3 | Nc6 |
| 3 Bb5 | a6 |
| 4 Ba4 | Nf6 |
| 5 O-O | Be7 |
| 6 Re1 | b5 |
| 7 Bb3 | O-O |
| 8 c3 | d5 |

(This is the Marshall gambit, a popular and dangerous variation of Ruy Lopez. Black obtains excellent attacking chances at the cost of a pawn.)

- | | |
|---------|------|
| 9 exd5 | Nxd5 |
| 10 Nxe5 | Nxe5 |
| 11 Rxe5 | c6 |
| 12 d4 | Bd6 |
| 13 Re1 | Qh4 |

(Already Black's attack looks menacing. White is forced to weaken his kingside to protect h2)

- | | |
|--------|-----|
| 14 g3 | Qh3 |
| 15 Be3 | Bg4 |
| 16 Qd3 | ... |

(16 f3? allows terrible damage after the reply 16 ... Bxg3! By moving to d3 White prepares to meet 16 ... Bf3 with 17 Qf1, driving the enemy queen back)

- | | |
|--------|------|
| 16 ... | Rae8 |
| 17 Nd2 | f5 |

(Charge!)

- | | |
|-------|-----|
| 18 f4 | ... |
|-------|-----|

(Naturally, the pawn must be stopped)

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|--------|-----|
| 18 ... | Kh8 |
|--------|-----|

(Black unpins his knight ...)

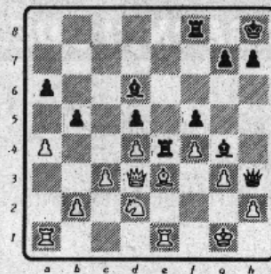
- | | |
|---------|-----|
| 19 Bxd5 | ... |
|---------|-----|

(... and White whips it off)

- | | |
|--------|-------|
| 19 ... | cx d5 |
| 20 a4 | ... |

(The counterattack)

- | | |
|--------|-------|
| 20 ... | Re4!? |
|--------|-------|



(Black prepares to double rooks and puts pressure on White's f-pawn. White says "Why not?" and grabs the bait)

- | | |
|---------|------|
| 21 Nxe4 | fxe4 |
| 22 Qf1 | Qh5 |
| 23 axb5 | g5 |

(Full speed ahead! For the next couple of moves both sides ignore each other)

- | | |
|---------|------|
| 24 bxa6 | gxf4 |
| 25 a7 | fxg3 |
| 26 hxg3 | ... |

(White must finally react - Black was threatening mate in one. Many players would look no further than taking the queen but after 26 ... Rxf1Q 27 Rxf1 White gets a new queen with check next move and Black loses)

- | | |
|--------|------|
| 26 ... | Bf3! |
|--------|------|

(Now 27 ... Qh1Q 28 Kf2 Qh2Q wins for Black)

- | | |
|--------|-----|
| 27 Bf4 | ... |
|--------|-----|

(White creates an escape square for his king)

- | | |
|--------|------|
| 27 ... | Bxf4 |
|--------|------|

- | | |
|---------|------|
| 28 gxf4 | Qh1+ |
|---------|------|

(Starting with this move Black proceeds to check White's king 14 times before finally trapping him)

- | | |
|--------|------|
| 29 Kf2 | Qh2+ |
|--------|------|

- | | |
|--------|-------|
| 30 Ke3 | Qxf4+ |
|--------|-------|

- | | |
|--------|-----|
| 31 Kf2 | ... |
|--------|-----|

(Perpetual check is possible but Black is after more)

- | | |
|--------|------|
| 31 ... | Bh5+ |
|--------|------|

- | | |
|--------|------|
| 32 Kg1 | Rg8+ |
|--------|------|

- | | |
|--------|-----|
| 33 Qg2 | ... |
|--------|-----|

(White must interpose ... 33 Kh1 Qh4Q is fatal. Losing queen for rook is not a disaster though. As we have already seen, White is about to get a new queen)

- | | |
|--------|-------|
| 33 ... | Rxg2+ |
|--------|-------|

- | | |
|---------|------|
| 34 Kxg2 | Bf3+ |
|---------|------|

- | | |
|--------|------|
| 35 Kf2 | Bg4+ |
|--------|------|

(The queen and bishop weave a net from which White's king cannot escape)

- | | |
|--------|------|
| 36 Kg2 | Qf3+ |
|--------|------|

- | | |
|--------|------|
| 37 Kg1 | Qg3+ |
|--------|------|

- | | |
|--------|------|
| 38 Kf1 | Bh3+ |
|--------|------|

- | | |
|--------|------|
| 39 Ke2 | Qd3+ |
|--------|------|

(Cutting off the king's escape and forcing him back in the right direction)

- | | |
|--------|------|
| 40 Kf2 | Qf3+ |
|--------|------|

- | | |
|--------|------|
| 41 Kg1 | Qg2# |
|--------|------|

Solution

Mark played the seemingly odd 1 Bh6! The bishop cannot be taken because of the knight fork on f6 and meanwhile Black is unable to save his g-pawn. After losing this key pawn Black's king came under heavy fire and he was forced to surrender more material a few moves later.